

**Letter of Support to the Public Health Committee**

**Regarding:** Proposed **H.B. No. 5541** AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICES PROVIDED BY DENTAL PROFESSIONALS AND CERTIFICATION FOR ADVANCED DENTAL HYGIENE PRACTITIONERS - LCO. No. \*2445\_PH\_\*

**March 19, 2012**

**Submitted by: Bernadette Baranowski, RDH, BS**

**Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Senator Slossberg, Representative Lyddy and members of the Public Health Committee,**

My name is Bernadette Baranowski and I am a licensed, registered dental hygienist living in Sandy Hook, CT. I have practiced for many years in a periodontal dental office. I have also been a clinical instructor at both the University of Bridgeport's Fones School of Dental Hygiene and University of New Haven's Dental Hygiene Programs.

I support the establishment of An Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP). The need has been documented and it is time for CT to move forward. Medicine took this step with midlevel providers in nursing and most of us have experienced firsthand the success of this step. I believe the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP) will provide a safe and cost effective workforce model built on a licensed professional, the Registered Dental Hygienist. The proposed education is thorough and will allow the ADHP to provide services in Public Health settings, like schools and community locations, eliminating many barriers to care. Also, decreasing barriers will increase access to and utilization of oral health care for CT residents. In this economic time, this will help Connecticut and its citizens.

In closing, I would be happy to discuss HB 5541 with you and hope the citizens of Connecticut can expect your support in delivering more access to dental health care by passing a bill in support of the establishment of An Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP).

Sincerely,

**Bernadette Baranowski, RDH, BS**

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